

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES (CIMS)
GROUP VISIT TO USSR

REF: MOSCOW 7109 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN OF MEAD CORPORATION JAMES MCSWINEY, ACCOMPANIED BY CIMS DIRECTOR AGNES PALL, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 14 TO SUM UP EXPERIENCES OF SEMINAR IN USSR JOINTLY HOSTED BY STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST) AND INSTITUTE OF SYSTEMS STUDIES (ISS). MCSWINEY WAS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT, ALTHOUGH CIMS GROUP DID NOT MEET WITH GVISHIANI, AND WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY PROFESSOR AGENBEGYAN'S NOVOSIBIRSK INSTITUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. MCSWINEY EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH TREATMENT BY SOVIET HOSTS, ALTHOUGH GVISHIANI HAD NOT APPEARED (HE IS REPORTEDLY ILL) AND THE GROUP DID NOT GET TO SEE A NUMBER OF SENIOR AND MIDDLE LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIALS WHOM THEY HAD HOPED TO MEET. (SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF CIMS GROUP TOLD E/C COUNSELOR THAT THEIR ACCESS HAD BEEN ONLY SUPER-FICIAL.) NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET SYSTEM IS OVER-CENTRALIZED AND THAT THERE IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"VAST DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN SOCIETIES. PALL EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION AT ATTENTION GIVEN CIMS GROUP BY PROFESSOR A.G. AGANBEGYAN, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN NOVOSIBIRSK, WHO ACCOMPANIED GROUP FROM MOSCOW TO NOVOSIBIRSK AND STAYED WITH THEM AT AIRPORT, EVEN OPENING UP V.I.P. ROOM FOR THEM WHEN PLANE DEPARTURE WAS

DELAYED. MCSWINEY SAID THAT MORALE IN AGANBEGYAN'S INSTITUTE HAD BEEN HIGH, WITH PEOPLE PROUD OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND, ACCORDING TO PALL, HAPPY TO BE THERE INSTEAD OF IN MOSCOW. WHEN AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT PEOPLE WERE VERY LIKEABLE BUT SYSTEM WAS AGAINST THEM, MCSWINEY STATED THAT ONE SOVIET OFFICIAL HAD SAID AS MUCH TO THEM. MCSWINEY ALSO MENTIONED ISS DEPUTY DIRECTOR MILNER WITH FAVOR AND SAID HE APPEARED WELL RECOVERED FROM ILLNESS.

2. MCSWINEY SAID HIS GROUP HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO NEUTRON WEAPON, EXCEPT THAT WHEN HIS WIFE VISITED A SCHOOL FOR TEEN-AGE GIRLS THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED. PALL ASSERTED THAT IN WHOLE HISTORY OF CIMS TOURS TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NO POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS HAD EVER BEEN RAISED.

3. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CIMS GROUP HAD DECIDED AGAINST INCLUDING EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN ITS ACTIVITIES IN USSR, POINTING OUT THAT EMBASSY IS WELL QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VISITING AMERICAN GROUPS. MCSWINEY RESPONDED IN VAGUE TONES THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "ADVICE" AND LEFT DECISION TO HIS "ADVISERS." AMBASSADOR INQUIRED IF SOVIETS HAD ASKED THAT EMBASSY BE EXCLUDED, NOTING THEIR PREFERENCE TO KEEP US OUT. MCSWINEY STATED THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT REQUESTED EMBASSY'S EXCLUSION BUT SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED (BY PARTIES UNKNOWN) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THIS WOULD BE BETTER IF GROUP INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. PALL, WHO WAS EVIDENTLY THE "ADVISER" IN QUESTION, SAID THAT EMBASSY PARTICIPATION WAS NOT PART OF "ORIGINAL AGREEMENT" SHE CONCLUDED LAST YEAR. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WISHED TO BE FRANK: WE ARE HERE TO BE OF SERVICE. PALL ASKED IF EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN INVITED TO SCST HOSTED RECEPTION ON APRIL 11, SOVIETS TOLD HER SEVERAL EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN INVITED. E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT NO INVITATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY, WHICH HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF THE EVENT.

4. MCSWINEY AND PALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY BRIEFING PROVIDED SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AT USCO. (AT CIMS HOSTED RECEPTION APRIL 12 SEVERAL MEMBERS OF DELEGATION EXPRESSED TO E/C COUNSELOR IN MUCH STRONGER TERMS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THIS BRIEFING.)

5. MCSWINEY SAID SOVIETS HAD DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THERE WOULD BE A SEMINAR AND VISITS TO SOME OF THE U.S. COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IN THE LONG RUN THESE CONTACTS COULD MAKE A USEFUL

CONTRIBUTION TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING. PALL PROMISED TO
PROVIDE COPY OF CIMS REPORT TO DEPARTMENT. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY ONCE IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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